

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Though the time for Zero hour was over but this incident is very serious.

[English]

The Government should take note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also express our sorrow. You should direct Government to do something in this regard so that such incidents do not occur in future.

14.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Represent Farmers interests on the Agricultural Price Commission

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is mainly an agricultural country. Its economy is based on agriculture, but Government is very much in different towards the interests of farmers. During the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 prices of various commodities have all along been increasing but there has been negligible increase in the prices of basic agricultural produce of farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to reconstitute Agricultural Price Commission. The Commission should have a representative from the farmers' side any they should get prices on the basis of their cost of production.

(ii) Need to Formulate Concrete Policies for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to make National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission more effective

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, objects and Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country are being finalised. The targets fixed for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last Five Year Plans have not achieved. There hasn't come any expected change in the social educational and economic backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes. The Vacancies reserved for them in Government and administrative services have not been fulfilled. Employment opportunities to educated and uneducated people haven't been ensured. Social equality among the citizens and respect for all in the country has been established even after 50 years of independence. Till now the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggestions of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Welfare have been ignored.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to eliminate all disparities targets for welfare and social-educational-economic security and upliftment of the SCs and STs may be clearly fixed and implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The steps should be taken to make National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe more effective and ensure two seats for Scheduled Castes and one seat for Scheduled Tribes in the Commission.

(iii) Need to Recall the Sacrifices made by Tribal Heroes during the Freedom Struggle

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : The nation is celebrating the 50th year of Independence. We remember those who laid their lives in the struggle for freedom. But there are many who have become the forgotten chapters in the Indian history of freedom struggle. I draw the attention of the Government on the floor of the House, the Tribal heroes of Eastern India whom the Nation is yet to give due recognition. They are Birsa Munda, Nirmal Munda, Dharanidhar, Laxman Naik, Bhima Bhoi, Surendra Sai, Sidhu Kanhu, Rani Gaidinliu and many others who fought fierce battle in the thick jungles of Eastern India.

I would request the Union Government to encourage private entrepreneurs to go for documentary films on these heroes. Government should also come forward to give them befitting respect for their contribution in the freedom struggle.

(iv) Need to Name the National Institute of Mass Communication after Dr. Radha Nath Rath, a Veteran Freedom Fighter of Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Dr. Radha Nath Rath of Orissa is a leading freedom fighter and a veteran journalist. He has left his indelible impression in various fields of life, social, political and cultural. Although he has entered 101st year on last 6th December, he still continues to be the Editor of the leading Oriya daily *The Samaj* founded by late Utkal Mani Gopa Bandhu Das, who was known as the Gandhi of Orissa. In recognition of his selfless services rendered in different fields, his centenary celebration was organised in the State of Orissa and also outside Orissa throughout the year from 6th December, 1995 to 6th December, 1996. In this background, it will be indeed a good gesture and a befitting tribute to this distinguished son of the country to name the National Institute of Mass Communication after him.

(v) Need to clear the backlog in Vacancies for SC/STs

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : The backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in Govt. offices